

WASHINGTON STAR

APR 12 1964

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

Reprisals Are Charged By Otepka Supporters

By DAVID BARNETT

North American Newspaper Alliance

Congressional investigators

CHARGE into charges that
the State Department has de-

noted six security experts in
"reprisal" for their support of
Otto Otepka, suspended chief
security evaluator.

Three of the men already
have filed petitions with the
Civil Service Commission con-
tending that their transfers,
from security assignments to
administrative duties, consti-
tuted "reduction in rank."

Mr. Otepka now is fighting
attempts of the State Depart-
ment to fire him. He is accused
of providing without authoriza-
tion information to the Senate
Internal Security subcommittee.

Evidence Called Contrived

John F. Norpel, jr., one of the
men reassigned as an adminis-
trative officer in the bureau of
inter-American affairs, contends
in his petition to the Civil Ser-
vice Commission that high State
Department officials had "false-

ly contrived evidence created
solely to harm Mr. Otepka."

Another of those who petition-
ed the Civil Service Commis-
sion, Harry M. Hite, contended
that four of those transferred
had been named to a special
group by Mr. Otepka to review
all personnel security cases.

"All have expressed their
strong convictions concerning
Mr. Otepka's innocence of
wrongdoing with which he had
been charged."

Two Others Reassigned

The other two reassigned, Mr.
Hite said, also were supporters
of Mr. Otepka.

The petitions were sent to
Stephen L. Elliott, chief of the
Civil Service Appeal Examining
Office. The reassignments were
made on March 15.

Mr. Hite, Mr. Norpel, Ray-
mond Loughton and Billy N.
Hughes, two of the others trans-
ferred, had intended to appear
as witnesses friendly to Mr.
Otepka at hearings on his dis-
charge, Mr. Hite said.